

MEMBERS' COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Perfins of Pryce Jones' Bulletin 323 Page 22-25

Jack Brandt and Jon Johnson, both from Canada, wrote with similar information. They sent photocopies of a page from **J.C.Johnson/G.Tomasson's catalogue Canadian Stamps With Perforated Initials**. This page included a "PJ" die, in use in Canada, with identity of Pryce Jones (Canada) Ltd.

Jack wrote first:-

"---after noting the last illustration PJ (2610.01) I checked my Canadian handbook and see one very similar. (In fact it is identical) It has a B rating, which is quite rare, and is one I have not been able to acquire yet. I wonder if there was a Canadian machine or whether the perforating was done in England on stamps sent over, and then returned to Canada. A research project for someone, but not me. "

Jon's letter gave a little more information:-

A small addition which I believe (but cannot prove) is related, is the Canadian perfin PJ. Pryce Jones (Canada) Ltd was a large (for its day in Calgary, Alberta) department store in Calgary which was only in existence for a few years. The perfin is scarce with only 8 copies reported, none dated. Surprisingly it is one of the few Canadian perfins to obtain Post Office approval, June 10, 1912."

After Jon's letter arrived I went back to the history of Pryce Jones by Elwyn V.Jones and a 5 line paragraph came to light. I had ignored this in my original precis as being of no relevance.

The paragraph reads :-

"In 1910, "Pryce Jones" formed Pryce Jones (Canada) Limited to run a business in Calgary, Canada, similar to the Royal Welsh Warehouse. A number of Newtonians emigrated there including his son, Colonel Albert Westhead Pryce-Jones, his wife, Rosina, and their sons, Reginald and Robert. Keen competition from the old established Hudson Bay Company forced the firm to close in 1915. Colonel A.W.Pryce-Jones and family remained there."

So the link between the companies in Newtown and Alberta are proved but the matter of the perfin machine is still not clear. As Pryce Jones (Canada) Ltd opened for business in 1910 and permission to use perfins was sought from the Canadian P.O. in 1912 my guess is a machine in Canada. Contact between the parent company and Canada would be by sea and the time lag between sending stamps and receiving them back would be too long I would have thought.

When I wrote to Kate Richardson (my original contact for Pryce Jones information) I was given another contact, a Mr. N. Oliver in Newtown. He is a leading light in the Newtown History Society. He asked for a copy of our February Bulletin as they had no information about the use of perfins by Pryce Jones. However, he was most interested in the fact that the perfin machine (PJ) is still in existence. He went to see Kate Richardson, took some photographs of the machine and sent me 4, showing the machine from different angles. It is very similar to some, which the Perfin Society rescued from the skip when Slopers' were closing down. Made of iron with flower patterns in the black lacquered/enamelled surface. I shall be showing these at the London meeting in May.